(a) whether it is a fact that Speed Post Service of Postal Department is not a efficient as the private couriers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any compensation is paid to the customers in case of late delivery of Speed Post; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In case of delay in delivery of domestic speed post articles beyond the norms determined by the Department of Posts from time to time, compensation is paid that is equal to the speed post charges.

Basic Telephone Facility

598. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages that are left out in Rajasthan where basic telephone facility is not provided till today;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the telephone facility would be provided to all villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Out of 39,753 inhabited villages in the State of Rajasthan as per Census 2001, 38,645 villages have been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs). The remaining 1,108 villages have been planned to be covered with VPTs progressively in a phased manner by February, 2011 with subsidy support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Broadband coverage in Panchayat

599. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making efforts for broadband coverage to reach every Panchayat in three years;

(b) if so, the complete details worked out so far; and

(c) the status of such coverage in Andhra Pradesh rural agency areas under each Panchayat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of about 2.5 lakh Gram